

Serve Idaho Commission
Meeting Minutes
January 15, 2014
Riverside Hotel Boise

Attendance: Emily Baker, Clint Blackwood, Robert Cope, Patricia Eriksen, Henry Henscheid, Cindy Jesinger, Bill Langer, Pam McGarry, Lynn Muehlfeit, Carrie Reese, Kristen Tracy, Hunter Van Bramer, Jackie Wright

Guest and Staff: April Durrant, Ken Edmunds, Sue Simmons, Renee Cox, Lachelle Smith, Alexis Neufeld,

Absent: Mike Jensen, Tina Naillon, Susan Steele

Kristen Tracy called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Review and Approval of Agenda:

Sue Simmons requested to speak earlier than scheduled. Motion made by Robert Cope to approve the agenda for today's meeting with that change. Pat Eriksen seconded the motion which passed unanimously by voice vote.

IDOL Updates – Sue Simmons:

Department of Labor has a new director – Ken Edmunds. He has met with Renee and Sue and is enthusiastic about supporting Serve Idaho. IDOL is having issues with volume in local offices. Have seen claims spike and also have a reduced workforce – all states are facing this issue.

Review and Approval of October 16 & 17, 2013 Commission Meeting Minutes:

Request change to membership report notes – minutes show that a full commission is 16 members – this should be 15 members. Motion made by Lynn Muehlfeit to approve the minutes with this change. Clint Blackwood seconded the motion which passed unanimously by voice vote.

Reports:

Chairman's Report: Kristen Tracy

- New committee assignments have been made for 2014.
- Concern voiced regarding overlap of positions which results in a small executive committee. To fix this Lynn Muehlfeit agreed to serve as Immediate Past Chair on the Executive Committee. Commission also proposes Mike step down as chair of, but remain on, Program Committee and new chair be appointed. Need Mike's approval before making this change.
- Note: Conference Committee members on the updated member matrix are for the 2015 conference. The 2014 conference committee is Carrie Reese, Jackie Wright, Bill Langer (Chair), Pat Eriksen, Cindy Jesinger, and Mike Jensen.

VISTA/Senior Corps update: April Durrant

- April not allowed to discuss the budget at present, but budget can be found online.
- Currently allocated for 62-65 volunteers (58 MSY)
- 10-12 members in cost share
- Holding VISTA outreach meeting to find programs on February 4
- VISTA programs will now be reporting on capacity building outcomes
- 16 programs are operating right now
- Stipend programs are having difficulty keeping their numbers up
- VISTA director will be doing the opening speech and a panel session for Serve Idaho Conference
- Currently drafting a letter to send to mayors asking them to participate in Mayor's Day – goal is to get 32 to take part
- Several projects around the state scheduled for MLK Day

- Note: VISTA celebrates 50th anniversary next year

Administration Report: Renee Cox

- Serve Idaho usually receives \$200,000. Currently have received \$80,000 to get through March
- The Appropriations Committee posted the text of the FY14 Omnibus and it shows \$15,038,000 for commissions which is an increase from last year
- State profiles should be updated on the CNCS website soon
- Serve Idaho will be helping with Idaho Prevention Conference again in April. Tina will also be presenting there on Service Learning. Serve Idaho uses the time to promote AmeriCorps as an option for graduating students
- Serve Idaho grant peer review is in process. Will start looking now for new agencies to apply next year
- The Corporation has sent out an email with guiding principles- they would like commissions to review these and consider adopting them for their individual commissions
- Serve Idaho's meeting with Ken Edmunds went well. He would like to see Pre-K programs and offered assistance in helping Serve Idaho reach out to community
- Commissioners request Ken talks about his vision for Serve Idaho at the next meeting if available

Financial Report: Renee Cox

- Admins funds (now called Commission Support funds)- \$36,000 left can be carried over to next year. Serve Idaho has 2012, 13, and 14 to match these funds (2013 match was \$541,584)
- PDAT - \$9,106.58 left – need to spend by December 2014
- Disability - \$40,650 left – need to spend by December 2014 (funds can cover accommodations for AmeriCorps members as well as part of Gordon Graff's salary – when funds are gone, Gordon won't be on Serve Idaho's payroll any longer). Henry, Renee, and Gordon will work together to find agencies who may be able to benefit from these funds

Program Report: Renee Cox

- Peer review meeting was on January 8, 2014. Rewrites are due to Serve Idaho January 16, and competitive grants will be submitted to the Corporation on January 17, 2014
- Next program director meeting is scheduled for January 29
- Renee and Lachelle will be conducting site visits beginning in March
- Commissioners are encouraged to do interviews (in person or via phone) with an AmeriCorps member or site supervisor

Break: 10:30 – 10:55

Peer Review voting:

Pam made a motion to accept the Program Committee's recommendations for funding with the suggested revisions. Lynn Muehlfeit seconded the motion which passed unanimously by voice vote.

Project Coordinator Updates: Lachelle Smith

Mayor's Day:

- Letter to Assoc. of Idaho Cities (as explained by April in VISTA report) will go out in about a week
- Good idea to recognize general volunteers as well as national service members
- Commissioners should keep Serve Idaho in the loop as they coordinate events for the day
- Try to have mayors register for the day on the CNCS website

MLK Day:

- 6 projects have been reported to Serve Idaho
- Serve Idaho will set up an info table in conjunction with Human Rights Commission event

Communications:

- Lachelle put out request for commissioners to contribute a couple of paragraphs to IDOL blog- could be highlighting commissioners, projects in your area, volunteer service, etc.
- IDOL currently posting Serve Idaho information on their Facebook page to see if it makes sense to make Serve Idaho's page part of their own. The Serve Idaho website would remain, but the independent Facebook page would go away (if testing goes well).

Working Lunch: 12:00 – 1:00

Letter – Guiding Principles for State Service Commissions

Pam made a motion to reject the November 2013 Guiding Principles for State Service Commissions document as written. Bill seconded the motion which passed unanimously by voice vote.

2014 Serve Idaho Conference Updates: Lachelle Smith

- Bill Langer is the conference chair
- Conference will be held March 4 & 5 at the Red Lion Downtowner
- Main speakers have been booked – Betty Stallings (keynote, suggested by SWIDOVs), Matt Wappett (U of I), and Marry Strasser (VISTA director)
- Hope to have session slots filled by January 17
- Expecting about 120 attendees, down from 220 last year
- Commissioners encouraged to find organizations to buy exhibitor space – sign-up link is on Serve Idaho website
- CEUs will be offered from BSU and NNU
- May be able to find sponsors for specific populations to attend (for example, AARP might be interested in covering registration fees for seniors)
- We will do pen pal project for kids with illnesses at one of the working lunches

Outreach PowerPoint Presentation: Renee Cox

- PowerPoint will be emailed out and posted to Commissioners Only Serve Idaho webpage
- Commissioners are encouraged to use this PowerPoint when reaching out to organizations
- The presentation can be edited but needs final approval through Serve Idaho before is used

Break: 2:30 – 3:05

Committee Break-outs

Membership: Currently at 16 members. 3 terms expire in March. Will need to find Local Gov't and region 6 replacement

Marketing: Emily Baker joined. Henry will delegate projects when can talk to whole committee together

Disaster Prep: Clint Blackwood made a motion to get commission support to pursue efforts to revive the Volunteer Reception Center Plan document and present it to county coordinators. Pat Eriksen seconded the motion which passed unanimously by voice vote.

Conference: Promotion is key since we have fewer AmeriCorps members attending this year. Serve Idaho is pursuing promotion through Facebook, the Chamber, etc.

Governor's Brightest Star: Event was a huge success. Commemorative programs are at the printers now.

Shakeout Certificate: Clint Blackwood presented a certificate to the Serve Idaho commission for participating in the Great Idaho Shakeout at the October retreat.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 16, 2014

Kristen adjourned the meeting at 4:19 PM